

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method for gravel packing an interval of a wellbore. The apparatus comprises a packing shroud having a small number of packing ports and a large number of production ports. The production ports are initially plugged with a removable material. A medial annulus between the shroud and a sand screen is used as a conduit for delivering slurry to a borehole interval to form a sand pack. The packing ports are distributed along the shroud to allow uniform formation of a sand pack, while limiting loss of carrier fluid to high permeability zones. After the sand pack is formed, the material plugging the production ports is removed, e.g. dissolved by ambient fluids, to provide flow paths for produced fluids.